

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentleman of the Committee,

My name is Deborah Parker and I come to you today in support of Bill 160, otherwise known as William's Law. On December 23, 2015, my world changed with the unexpected premature arrival of my twins William Daniel and Karigan Marie. On December 25, my world shattered when we lost William due to complications of him being born at 26 weeks. If the addition being proposed today was in place in December I would have had the opportunity to meet, see and touch my son before he passed away.

I delivered my children at Windham Hospital where they do not have the resources to handle micro-preemie twins. The team at Windham called for the transport teams from CT Children's Medical Center to transport my twins to UCONN Medical Center without any hesitation. Immediately after birth I was not medically stable to be transported with my twins to UCONN. I spent that first night at Windham while my twins were at UCONN. On December 24, I still required medical treatment for the many complications that had caused the twins' preterm delivery. The doctors and nurses at Windham knew that UCONN would be a better location from a medical standpoint for my continued recovery, and reached out to my insurance company to obtain the needed prior authorization for my transfer and was denied transfer. When this information relayed to me I was devastated. All I wanted to do was be with my sick babies. The doctors at Windham communicated this news to the doctors at UCONN and both facilities tried contacting the insurance company again. By this time it was late afternoon on Christmas Eve and everyone was told that any appeal request would have to wait until Monday morning. The doctors and nurses never gave up at either hospital trying getting me to see my babies. At 1:40 Christmas morning the doctor at Windham came to my bedside and told me that was going to UCONN. I was going to see my son and daughter. Five minutes later at 1:45, my husband and I received the phone call that no parent should ever receive – my son William had passed. I had to say goodbye to my son without being able to say 'hi' or 'I love you'. It is hard enough to lose a child, but to lose a child you gave birth to, but never got to see in life, never got to touch, never to say 'I love you' to. It has left a hole in my heart that will never heal.

Although William would have still passed; if the insurance company had a manned 24 hour/365 line where prior authorization decisions could be made – I would have been able to meet my son. If a company chooses to be in the insurance industry, then they need to accept the responsibility of making people available who are given the authority to make these decisions. Life and death decisions are not made solely Monday to Friday, 9 to 5. They are made 24/7/365. With the passage of this bill it will prevent what happened to me and my family from ever happening to another family.

Thank you for your time and consideration of supporting and passing Bill 160, William's Law.

Deborah Parker
Mother
Richmond, Va.